



Mr Oliver Burwood

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FAO: Parents/carers in all DNEAT academies

15 July 2021

Dear Parent/Carers,

I wanted to write to you at the end of this extraordinary school year to thank you for your contribution to your child's education and to give you an update on our ongoing response to COVID.

Thanks to your efforts, children and young people in our thirty six DNEAT academies have attended school, on average, more often than children have nationally or in Norfolk. This means that they have had less disruption to their learning in what has been an already difficult year.

Academies have worked hard to keep children, staff and families safe. They have done this using a range of protective measures and by following national guidance from the Department for Education (DfE). As England moves to greater 'opening up' on 19 July we will need to follow updated guidance and so there will be changes. Some changes will begin on 19 July and others when children return in September. Here is a summary:

Bubbles: In line with DfE guidance we are opting to keep the bubble system in place for the remainder of this term (until the last day on Wednesday 21 July) in all DNEAT academies. This is to ensure maximum safety and minimum disruption to learning. It will also support NHS Test and Trace to carry out their role. After this time, the bubble system will end meaning that when your child returns in September there will be greater mixing of children school, in line with pre-pandemic practises.

Test and Trace: Up until now schools have played a significant part in tracing close contacts of pupils or adults who have tested positive for COVID. This will cease on 19 July. From this time positive COVID cases should be reported directly to NHS Test and Trace who will involve the school if necessary to trace additional close contacts who will also need to self-isolate.

Self-isolation: From 16 August the need for people under the age of 18 or adults who have been fully vaccinated (2 doses) to self-isolate simply because they have been a close contact of somebody who has tested positive will cease. They will instead be asked to take a test and only self-isolate if that test is positive. This means that in September, when children



return, there will be many fewer children needing to be off school simply because one child or adult tests positive.

A range of measures that we are used to in school will remain in place in September, again in line with DfE guidance. This will include a continuing stronger focus on washing hands and also ongoing ventilation of classrooms and other spaces. Your school will write to you with further information, if necessary on any additional measures or changes.

Lastly, we have been told by the DfE to draw up plans for what we will do in the event of local outbreaks. If this occurs we may be asked by Public Health England to limit numbers of pupils or return to bubbles. We are all hoping that this will not be necessary but I wanted to let you know that these decisions will be taken beyond the Trust and that we will be obliged to follow direction.

I'd like to end by thanking you for the support you have given to your child's education during this unusual school year.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Burwood
Chief Executive Officer